

AMENDED CLAIM SET

(list claims as: original, currently amended, cancelled, withdrawn, previously presented, new, or not entered)

1. (currently amended) A heating ~~device comprising device,~~  
comprising:

a support base adapted to support an article to be heated and  
~~comprising including~~ aluminum or an aluminum alloy;

heating means provided within the support base; and

a slab-shaped skeletal member provided within the support  
base, the skeletal member having a plurality of holes in a form of  
a lattice pattern, and ~~comprising including~~ a metallic material  
having a melting point of 850°C or higher.

2. (currently amended) The heating device of claim 1,  
wherein

the skeletal members are disposed ~~so as to~~ be vertically  
symmetrical with respect to the heating means.

3. (canceled) The heating device of claim 1, wherein  
the skeletal member is slab-shaped.

4. (canceled) The heating device of claim 3, wherein  
a plurality of holes are formed in the skeletal member.

5. (canceled) The heating device of claim 4, wherein the holes are in a honeycomb pattern.

6. (original) The heating device of claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy has low contents of magnesium and copper.

7. (currently amended) The heating device of claim 1, wherein

the skeletal member ~~comprises~~ includes one of iron, steel, nickel, a nickel alloy, titanium, a titanium alloy, copper, and a copper alloy.

8. (currently amended and withdrawn) A method for producing a heating device, comprising:

disposing heating means within a mold having a lower portion ~~comprising~~ including a metal mold and a side portion ~~comprising~~ including a sand mold;

pouring a melt of aluminum or an aluminum alloy into the mold; and

covering a surface of the melt with an exothermic heat insulating material,

whereby directional solidification of the melt takes place from a lower side toward an upper side to cast the melt.

9. (currently amended) A method for producing the heating device of claim 1, comprising:

disposing the heating means and the skeletal member within a mold having a lower portion ~~comprising~~ including a metal mold and a side portion ~~comprising~~ including a sand mold;

pouring a melt of aluminum or an aluminum alloy into the mold;  
and

covering a surface of the melt with an exothermic heat insulating material,

whereby directional solidification of the melt takes place from a lower side toward an upper side to cast the melt.

10. (currently amended) A film forming ~~apparatus~~ comprising: apparatus, comprising:

the heating device of claim 1 for holding and heating an article to be heated; and

film material throwing means for throwing a material for a film onto the article to be heated.

11. (new) The heating device of claim 1, wherein  
the skeletal member includes a first support plate having a first groove in a surface thereof, and a second support plate having a second groove in a surface thereof, such that when the first support plate and the second support plate are stacked, the

first groove and the second groove form a circular opening for accommodating the heating means.

12. (new) The heating device of claim 11, wherein the first support plate and the second support plate surround an entire peripheral surface of the heating means.